

336. COINAGE OF THE NIZAMS OF HYDERABAD.

The decline of the Mughal Power in India after the death of the Emperor Aurangzeb was the signal for the rise and establishment of various independent monarchies throughout India. Subhedars or Governors of different provinces under the supreme power declared their independence and the Mughal Emperors were too weak to exercise any control over them. Nadir Shah's invasion in 1739 during the reign of Muhammad Shah made the case still worse for the Emperors until at last they were Emperors merely in name while the real authority, even at the Capital and the surrounding districts, was in the hands of the Vazirs or the Marathas and subsequently of the English.

In these circumstances, the Nizam's power in the Deccan was brought into being. Nizamulmulk the last of the Governors of Deccan founded the present dynasty. He declared himself independent in 1721 (1133 A.H.) and by virtue of his valour and statesmanship laid the foundations of his State so strong that it has remained almost undisturbed to this day, and is now premier among Indian States. In accordance with the decision of the Paramount power, mints of almost all the Indian States had to be closed down in 1900 but that of the Nizam State continues to issue its own currency.

It is somewhat strange that no single article or notice of the coins of the Hyderabad State has yet appeared in the Numismatic journals. Even the exhaustive Catalogue of the coins of Indian States in the Indian Museum, Calcutta, has failed to notice these coins. I, therefore, deemed it proper to bring some of my observations on the Coinage of this Premier Native State of India to the notice of the Numismatic Society of India.

The following is a list of rulers of the dynasty :—

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Nizamulmulk Asafjah .. | Ruled from 1133 to 1161 Hijri. |
| 2. Nawab Mir Ahmadkhan .. | 1161 to 1164 " |
| Nizamuddaulah Nasirjung. | |
| 3. Muzaffarjung Sadullah Khan .. | 1164 (2 months). |
| 4. Nawab Syed Muhammad Khan .. | 1164 to 1175 Hijri. |
| Asafuddaulah Salabatjung. | |
| 5. Nawab Mir Nizam Ali Khan .. | 1175 to 1218 " |
| Bahadur Asafjung (Asafjah II). | |
| 6. Nawab Mir Akbar Ali Khan .. | 1218 to 1244 " |
| Sikandarjah (Asafjah III). | |
| 7. Nawab Mir Farkhunda Ali .. | 1244 to 1273 " |
| Khan Nasiruddaulah (Asafjah IV). | |
| 8. Nawab Mir Tahniyat Ali Khan .. | 1273 to 1285 " |
| Bahadur Afzaluddaulah (Asafjah V). | |

9. Nawab Mir Mahboob Ali Khan Ruled from 1285 to 1330 Hijri.
(Asafjah VI).
10. Nawab Mir Usman Ali Khan „ 1330 to this day.
(Asafjah VII).

As has been pointed out by me in my paper on Non-Mughal Mints of Shah Alam II read before the Seventh Oriental Conference at Baroda, coins were struck during the late Mughal period by the local authorities in the Emperor's name from various mint towns with distinctive marks of their own, though the Emperor had no control over the mints. The reason for this continuance of the Emperor's name seems to be the apprehension of the revival of the Mughal Power and the dislike of a change in the currency by the public who still cherished a vague notion of the supreme authority of the Mughal Emperor.

The common stamp of the Mughal Emperor's name on the coins gave them currency throughout India in spite of the diversity. The same held good in case of the Nizam's dominions at Hyderabad. A reference to page 32 of *Tarikhe-Rashiduddin-khani*, the report of the Subhedar of Aurangabad about the current coinage as published in the *Aurangabad Gazetteer*, page 727 and *Bustan Asafia*, page 162 would show that no less than 40 varieties of rupees and about a dozen varieties of copper coins were current in the Nizam's State till about 40 years ago.

There is nothing in the Coinage that could distinguish the Coinage of the Nizam from that of the others till 1218 A.H. when Sikandarjah introduced the Persian letter *س* on the coins. A coin with legend, dates and name of the ruling Mughal ruler with the above letter has therefore to be assigned to Sikandarjah and similarly his successor Nasiruddaulah's coins are distinguished by the initial letter *ن* of his name on the then current coins. His successor Afzaluddaulah continued the same practice on his coins by introducing *ا* as the initial letter of his name.

It was during this ruler's reign that the mutiny broke out and the Mughal Power was finally overthrown. This encouraged most of the Native States to abolish the Mughal Emperor's name and legend prevalent hitherto on the coins and to substitute it with their own. The Nizam's Coinage was not an exception. Asafuddaulah also introduced a separate coinage for his own State wherein the Mughal Emperor's name was not to be seen.

The coins prevalent up to the mutiny had *سکه مبارک شاه* *جلوس* محمد بهادر شاه بادشاه غازی or *عالم بادشاه غازی* on the obverse and *س* with or without the letters *مینت مانوس ضرب فرخنده بنیاد حیدر اماد* or *ن* and the mint mark on the reverse.

This was substituted by Asafuddaulah from 1275 A.H. with coins having the following legend :—

۹۲	}	on the obverse.
آصف جاہ نظام الملک بہادر		
۱۲۷۵		
سنہ	}	and
جلوس		
۲	}	on the reverse.
میمنت مانوس		
حیدر آباد		
ضرب		
فرخندہ بنیاد		

Rupees, half rupees, quarter rupees and even two annas and an anna pieces of this type and legend seem to have been issued in silver. Copper pieces of half anna and quarter anna were also issued with the same legend. Gold coinage seems to be rare and it appears that these Mohurs or Ashrafiis were struck only at auspicious or important occasions by the ruler or the nobles in the State mint and their values differed from time to time according to the gold rate. Gold coinage bore the same legend as the silver one.

This sort of coinage continued to be current under the name of 'Hali' along with all other sorts of earlier rupees termed as 'chalanies' till about 40 years ago when Mir Mahboobalikhan the then ruler issued orders to stop the circulation of all other coins in his State except the 'Hali' issued by his predecessor since 1275 and caused them to be melted. This was enforced very rigidly by penalizing the possession and use of the old coinage in ordinary transactions. This caused a total abolition of the Chalani rupees which were still in use with a decreased value. In 1312 the machine made coins were introduced by Mir Mahboobalikhan which were equal to the current rupee in size and weight. This new Hali rupee threw even the old Hali rupees into the background. (Hali literally means current and so does the word chalani.) The mint was placed under the management of an English officer who systematized the whole currency on the lines of the coinage of the crown. Coins of various fractions of a rupee were also issued from the machines of the mint. The legend on these coins remained the same as on the old Hali rupees with the difference of regnal and Hijri years which changed from year to year.

In 1322 another change in the coinage followed which brought the coinage almost to the level of our current British Currency and is still current in that State. The gold and silver coinage has the drawing of Chahar minar—a central edifice with four towers in the city of Hyderabad, with the initial letter م in the arch of the building to indicate the name of the ruler Mir Mahboobalikhan. At the top of this design the words آصف جاہ to the right and بہادر to the left in the Arabic characters with the Hijri date at the bottom is seen on the obverse. The reverse of this rupee bears یک روپیہ in a small circle in the centre with جلوس میمنت مانوس ضرب فرخندہ بنیاد حیدرآباد running around.

The half rupee, quarter rupee and one-eighth rupee coins bear the same legend on them except the value of the coin mentioned on the respective issues.

Modern copper coins bear the same legend on the reverse but the obverse presents a monogram like that of the Turkish or the Egyptian coins, which has the same legend as above beautifully interwoven in it. Half anna and two pies coins of copper were issued during the reign of Mir Mahboobalikhan. The present ruler has introduced pies of copper also.

The rupees of the present ruler bear the same legend on all the coins of the aforesaid denominations except the initial letter ع standing for his name Mir Usmanali Khan in place of the old م of his father and the Hijri year which is changed on the coins from year to year.

He has also introduced a nickel one anna piece and currency notes of different denominations with the Persian legend on the lines of and similar to the British Indian Currency notes.

With this brief survey of the Coinage of the Nizams of Hyderabad I look forward for a detailed study of the same in future, and close for the present with the following description of some of typical coins illustrated in this issue :—

AV. 1. A gold coin of Mir Mahboob Ali Khan (1285–1330 A.H.)

It reads :—

<i>Obverse.</i>	<i>Reverse.</i>
۹۲	جلوس ۱۵
آصف جاہ	میمنت
نظام الملک بہادر	مانوس
۱۲۹۹	فرخندہ بنیاد
	ضرب

- AV. 2. *Obverse* :—Same as No. 1 but date 1311 A.H.
Reverse :—Same as No. 1 but the mint name Hyderabad and Farkhundabunyad, differently arranged.
- AV. 3. Machine made coin of the latest variety introduced in 1322 A.H. by Mir Mahboob Ali Khan. The coin is called half Ashrafi.
Obverse :—The edifice of Chahar minar in centre with the following inscription in Naskh characters :—

نظام الملک	to the right,
آصف جاہ	at the top,
بہادر	to the left,
۱۳۲۸	at the base of the edifice, and
سنہ	
م	in the centre.

Reverse :—The value of the coin نصف اشرفی in the smaller circle in the centre with the same legend as on the reverse of No. 1 running round the same with the Regnal Year.

- AR. 4. This is a silver coin issued by Sikandarjah in the name of the Mughal Emperor Akbar II with the initial letter س on بادشاہ شا .

<i>Obverse.</i>	<i>Reverse.</i>
محمد اکبر شا (ہ)	۲۵
(ع) —————	جلوس
س	میمنہ —————
(با) دشاہ ۱۲۳۳ غا (ز)	فرخندہ بنیا (د)

- AR. 5. This is a coin issued by Nasiruddaulah in the name of the Mughal Emperor Bahadur II with the initial letter ن over بادشاہ شا .

<i>Obverse.</i>	<i>Reverse.</i>
محمد بہادر شا (ہ)	۱۸
ن	جلوس
بادشاہ غا (زی) ۱۲۷۳	میمنہ —————
	س فرخندہ بنیا (د)

- AR. 6. This is a coin issued by Afzaluddaulah in the name of the Mughal Emperor Bahadur II with the initial letter ا over بادشاه of شاه .

Obverse :—Same as No. 5 except the date 1274 and the letter ا .

Reverse :—The same as No. 5.

- AR. 7. The Post Mutiny type of coin introduced by the Nizam after 1275 A.H. wherein the Mughal Emperor's name has disappeared. The legend reads :—

Obverse.

Reverse.

۹۲	جلوس
آصف جاہ	میمنت مانوس
نظام الملک بہادر	حیدر آباد
۱۲۷۶	ضر
سنہ	فرخندہ بنیاد

- AR. 8. A quarter rupee piece of Mir Mahboob Ali Khan, dated 1287. The legend on both the sides is the same as above.
- AR. 9. A half rupee coin of the above ruler with the date 1307. The legend remains the same.
- AR. 10. A one-eighth rupee piece of the above ruler, dated 1308 with the same legend.
- AR. 11. The first machine made rupee introduced by Mir Mahboob Ali Khan (now known as the old Hali while the old hand made issues were termed Chalani). The legend on the coin is the same as on the old rupees except the change of the year 28 and the Hijri, date 1312.
- AR. 12. The new Hali rupee introduced in 1322 A.H. with the initial letter م in the arch of the edifice on the obverse and the value یک روپہ inserted in the centre on the reverse.
The arrangement of the legend is the same as on AV. 3 above.
- AR. 13. A quarter rupee piece of the latest type bearing the value چہار آنہ on the reverse. Legend is the same as above.
- AE. 14. This is an old dumpy copper pice evidently issued after the Mutiny. Such coins were current till recently.

- AE. 15. The current pice of which six go for an anna. The value دو پانی is mentioned on the reverse, the remaining legend being the same as above. The obverse shows a monogram in which the above legend and the initial letter م are artistically interwoven.

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COINAGE OF THE NIZAMS.



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COINAGE OF THE NIZAMS.

